(iii) Low female literacy rate.

(iv) The low age of marriage of females.

(v) High prevalent infant mortality rate despite reduction.

(vi) Low plan outlay on the family welfare progrrmme on account of competing claims of various sectors on resources. The share of outlay for this programme ranges between 1.1 to 1.8% of the public sector outlays.

(c) and (d) The family welfare strategy is being reviewed particularly in the context of 8th Five Year Plan. The various proposals and alternatives including relatings to incentives/disincentives are being examined in this context. No final decision has been taken in the matter as yet.

Herbal Treatment for AIDS

797. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has affirmed that some of the plants used in AIDS treatment in Africa have shown biological activities for anti-HIV activity and may control AIDS ;

(b) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences or Medical researchers propose to go through the use of plants for anti-HIV activity to control AIDS ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) At the Central Drug Research Institute in Lucknow, India, there has been an ongoing programme to screen Indian plants for a broad array of biological actitviies, including antitumour and antiviral effects. A few active plants have been uncovered in this programme, but useful agents have not been identified. The basis for plant collection was primarily random.

Manufacture of Alcohol by Licensed Units

798. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have asked all the State Governments to immediately stop issuing of licences for manufacture of alcohol ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a large number of alcohol manufacturing units in various parts of the country are functioning without obtaining any approval from the Central Government ; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps Government propose to take to ensure that only those units should function which have been granted approval by the centre ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All State Governments have been asked to direct the manufacturing units functioning in the States without valid approvals from the Central Government to approach the Central Government immediately for obtaining the necessary approvals. This point has repeatedly been emphasized on the State Governments specially during